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On Improving Indoor Air Quality

Art. 1

State and self-government bodies are obliged to undertake activities aimed at preventing the negative effects of indoor air quality problems, and to provide support in this area to building owners and tenants.

Art. 2

1. Scientific studies and building investigations reveal that poor indoor air quality (IAQ) is responsible for occupant complaints and that of these complaints, the majority are associated with poor ventilation.

2. The composition of indoor air may include chemical and biological substances that have been related to illness or discomfort in persons who are exposed to the indoor air.

3. Energy saving features and aging, poorly maintained heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems in many buildings have substantially reduced the outdoor air exchange or otherwise contributed to increased concentrations of air pollutants in these structures.

4. IAQ problems are not easily definable nor are specific health effects easily quantifiable.

5. It is in the public interest to reduce exposure to poor IAQ by developing a comprehensive program to address requirements for IAQ in public and private buildings, schools, health care facilities, offices and commercial establishments, and to educate the public regarding IAQ issues. In so doing, it is in the public interest to pursue an overall, building systems approach to IAQ.

Art. 3

A Director of IAQ shall be appointed, and, subject to available funds, the Director may establish a public information program to educate the public on IAQ, and on effective, practical methods for preventing, detecting and correcting the causes of poor IAQ. The Director may also conduct building investigations and scientific studies to analyze and quantify the extent of poor IAQ in selected buildings with IAQ problems.

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Art. 4

Recognizing that IAQ problems are primarily a result of inadequate ventilation or poorly maintained ventilation systems, building owners shall ensure that ventilation, heating and air conditioning systems do not pose a health threat to building occupants. Such systems shall provide adequate ventilation according to building usage and shall be properly maintained.

Art. 5

Building renovation and cleaning, the installation of new wallcoverings, furnishings or carpeting, and the application of pesticides that result in the diffusion of dust, stone and other small particles, toxic gases or other harmful substances in quantities hazardous to health shall be safeguarded by means of local ventilation or other protective devices to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

Art. 6

1. Recognizing the interests of both smokers and nonsmokers, smoking tobacco will be permitted in indoor spaces, subject to the following restrictions:

a) Smokers with private offices may smoke in their offices.

b) Where smokers do not have private offices, they may smoke in a separate smoking room or lounge with adequate [separate] ventilation.

c) Where nonsmokers are present and are bothered by the smoking of others, the problem may be resolved by:

1) seeking an accommodation on an individual basis with recourse to common courtesy and mutual tolerance;

2) improving ventilation;

3) relocating a workstation;

4) grouping smokers and nonsmokers;

5) using desk top air cleaners or "smokeless" ashtrays for smokers; or

6) partitioning open office spaces.

d) Specially designated smoking [nonsmoking] areas shall be established in all indoor public places, including means and

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buildings of public transport, medical and healthcare centers, educational institutions, restaurants, coffee shops and entertainment clubs, to provide for the separation of smokers and nonsmokers.

2. Designated smoking [nonsmoking] areas must have clear signs.

Art. 7

Whoever violates these provisions is subject to fine.

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